

Eurobio Program

Plenaries

Industry : Wednesday,
8th october - 16.30-18.00

Agriculture : Wednesday,
8th october - 11.30-13.00

Health : Thursday,
9th october - 10.30-12.00

EuroBio's Plenaries are not « talking heads » sessions. The speakers will be grilled by an interrogator, challenged by the meeting, and questioned by the audience. You may dispute the visions, but if you are not inspired you will be stimulated and provoked. The headlines at EuroBio are the people who make the headlines in the life sciences, indisputably the most important industry sector of the 21st Century.

House of commons debates

Tuesday, 7th october -
14.00-16.00

Derived from the rough and tumble of British politics, the House of Commons Session fires the opening salvo in the EuroBio spirit of debate. In two hours of rapid fire, interactive exchanges and discussion, the session will explore important topics.

This is debate as you have never seen it before, a series of free-form and fun discussions where your own views may be turned against you by cunning opponents. Where you stand on any given issue may depend on where you sit. Tell us which debates you are interested in. With a voting system that is more reliable than Florida's, you get to vote electronically on the topics you want to discuss. Or suggest your own topics for future editions of EuroBio.

Select six topics and register your interest now. Click on : <http://mailing.paris-region.com/>

October 6th afternoon at OECD headquarters

Energy Futures : How Will Biofuel and Bioenergy Find Their Proper Place ?

This State of the Art conference, developed by EuroBio with BiotechInfo and hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), looks closely at the issues surrounding the future production, the use of biofuels, and the development of renewable energies.

Many countries and regions around the globe have conceived and implemented strategies directed to increasing the use of ethanol and biodiesel in liquid fuels. The strategies have been justified principally by claims of energy security, the promotion of rural economies, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Much of the detailed analysis that has been undertaken so far has been, in essence, a critique of existing policy approaches that have mainly been interventions that encourage the conversion of grain or waste into liquid fuel (ethanol and biodiesel).

In contrast, the speakers at this meeting will look to the future of both technology and policy. In the first session, speakers will consider firstly the nature and implementation of future more-broadly based policies for sustainable biofuels and bioenergy. Those policies might encourage R&D into better technological solutions, and may give weight to factors such as energetic profitability, economic sustainability, and environmental benefit. The adoption of policies may not be uniform as countries seek to build on their existing or future competitive or resource advantages. What might be the impact of a patchwork of measures within the EU or globally, where some countries have little or no bioenergy incentives, others have narrow biofuel-specific measures, and yet others adopt broader policy incentives that go beyond immediate energy applications of biomass?

The second session will deal with the impact of such policies on the market for bioenergy and biorefinery R&D and technology development in the relatively near future. Will a set of broader policy considerations continue to favour ethanol and biodiesel production from agriculture? If not, does what has been achieved in biofuel need to be written off as the result of undue market skewing? Will other renewable energy sources displace bioenergy and biofuels? Will certain early-stage technical approaches (for example, biorefineries using biomass « of the second generation » as developed at INRA) involving advanced biological processes be encouraged by such broad measures and, if so, which? And within a policy patchwork scenario, where is the R&D more likely to take place? ■ HÉLÈNE GUYOT MASSARI

EuroBio, the life science event of the European Union Presidency - Paris, October 7-9

What is the state of biotech in Europe? In fact, Biotechnology provides today's politicians with direct solutions to escalating crises in food, energy, exploding healthcare costs, climate change challenges...

EuroBio helps biotech companies

One-to-one Business Partnering to help businesses grow :

- 55 % of European biotech businesses are 5 years old or younger.
- 2,000 one-to-one meetings took place in 2007

- Tech Transfer Summit (European Federation of Biotechnology)
- Intellectual Property (European Patent Office)
- Session on helping SMEs to interact with Regulatory authorities
- « SMEs go Health » Day, European Commission Programs

How does EuroBio help biotech ?

Four Pillar architecture of meeting at the interface of Science & Industry : One-to-one business partnering, Conferences & Lobbying, Exhibition, Career Fair.

Biodialogue debates

Wednesday, 8th october - 9.00-11.00

Wednesday, 8th october - 14.00-16.00

Unique to EuroBio, the BioDialogues are the most vocal part of the meeting. Two hours of deep debate on a well-defined topic of immediate importance. EuroBio challenges industry and science to make their case that the life sciences are beneficial now and in the near future.

Your voice needs to be heard. Join one or more of EuroBio's six BioDialogues debates either as an individual or as part of a larger, representative group (e.g. industry association). Public and politicians must see that it is companies and individual livelihoods that are affected by their attitudes and decisions.

A « White Paper » will capture the background, the debate, and its decisions, and minority positions. Bearing the EU Presidency brand, they will orient future debates and influence industry practice.

EuroBio's influence extends far beyond October 2008.

Eurobiopartnering

Tuesday, 7th october - all day
Wednesday, 8th october - all day

Thursday 9th, october - all day

Partnering, but not quite as you know it! At EuroBio, the usual business-to-business partnering with companies around Europe, North America, and Asia, has two added dimensions.

First, there is a technology exchange - providing ready access to a huge range of projects coming out of elite universities and institutions. And then there is a direct connection to funds from the EU's company-friendly Framework 7 programme.

Bio manufacturing, productivity and excellence

The theme of the second edition of the Genopole biomufacturing Symposium will be : « Productivity and excellence in biomufacturing ».

B iologics such as monoclonal antibodies are now playing an increasingly preponderant role in new cancer therapies. In order to facilitate patient access to these treatments, it is essential to reduce costs in general and production costs in particular. The symposium to be held at Genopole Evry on October 6th will bring together sector specialists from France and across the world. The first session will focus on ways to increase biomufacturing yields. The program will also feature three other sessions on innovative technologies, changes in GMP regulations and green & white biotech. In addition to the creation of a clinical-batch biomufacturing facility on the Genopole campus (to be inaugurated on October 6th), other on-site biomufacturing projects are underway or in the planning stages, such as a GMP Viral Vector Production Unit and a Center for Biocatalysis and Novel Enzyme Production.

We have selected a few presentations that will take place during the symposium. According to Jacqueline Besset, Assystem France, "the industrial development and long-term profitability of the biotech sector undoubtedly depends on the latter's ability to scale up its technologies and optimize its processes and resource use. Why and how should you optimize your process in a biotech setting? Our logic-driven approach involves reviewing your organization's macro-processes and the integrating the industrialization process, the production of clinical or other batches, crosscutting and related processes, so that any low-efficiency areas can be identified and tackled". This pragmatic approach will be illustrated by an example of flow optimization.

For Ingrid Markovic, FDA (Rockville, USA), "production of reliable, safe and efficacious biologic therapeutic products is critical. An overview of manufacturing processes and regulatory considerations for product manufacturing development will be presented. Reference will be made to challenges in producing biologic

therapies in comparison to small molecule drugs".

For Vivalis, a French biotech company, building on the biological properties of embryonic stem (ES) cells, avian EBx@cells have been generated using proprietary procedures. Such cells maintain most of the desirable features of ES cells (ie. high expression of telomerase, long-term genetic stability, indefinite cell proliferation...) but display new "industrial-friendly" characteristics (ie. proliferation in stirred-tank bioreactors at high cell densities as suspension cells, growth in serum-free media, maintenance of diploidy, absence of in vivo tumorigenicity, high susceptibility to various human and animal viruses, efficient genetic engineering and heterologous protein production...).

"EBx@ cells constitute an alternative for the manufacturing of vaccines currently produced in eggs, but also for the production of therapeutic proteins, in particular monoclonal antibodies, with enhanced ADCC (antibody-directed cell cytotoxicity) activity", explains Majid Mehtali, Vivalis.

For Patricia Noguez-Hellin and Otto Merten, Généthon, France, "manufacturing processes complexity in addition with genetically modified organisms manipulation entail for biodrugs production a pharmaceutical structure as well as a know-how that Genéthon has implemented many years ago.

Genéthon has today developed manufacturing protocols mainly for the production of AAV and lentiviral vectors. Our capacity today is sufficient to meet the production of quantities required for phase 1 clinical trial approach. However, to produce the vectors lot quantity necessary for phase II clinical studies, it will be necessary to establish large scale manufacturing processes".

Genéthon has started the industrialization of such production processes and plans to have in 2010 a new pharmaceutical industrial production site. ■ HÉLÈNE GUYOT MASSARI.

Human resources, find the good cocktail

On the occasion of EuroBio and of its carrier fair (October 8th) the head hunter Arrowman, specialized in the recruitment in the sector of biotech, proposes, together with Leem (the French organization of pharmaceutical laboratories) and BiotechInfo, a workshop dedicated to the problem of human resources in fast growing start ups. "Make a success of your recruitments and find the right cocktail of expertise". In smaller companies, it becomes more and more clear that multicompetent people are desperately needed. That is the reason why new positions are being created, ie not only R&D people (PhDs ...) but engineers, quality specialists, regulatory people, business developers, who are not so present in SMEs of discovery. The workshop will be interactive, with testimonies of European companies : Oroxcell (biodisponibility and toxicity), Genomic vision (molecular combing) and DBV Technologies (allergy).

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Good clinical results for Transgene

Transgene (Strasbourg, France) has presented further positive clinical results relating to its therapeutic vaccine TG4010 (MVA-MUC1-IL2) as an adjunct to first line chemotherapy for the treatment of patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). These results, which come from the controlled phase IIb study involving 148 patients randomized in two arms of treatment, were presented Saturday, September 13th at the 2008 annual meeting of ESMO (European Society of Medical Oncology) held in Stockholm. The promising clinical data presented on June 2nd 2008, during the ASCO meeting are fully confirmed. After 17 months of median follow up, we can now report that long term survival is greater for those patients who received TG4010 in combination with first line (gemcitabine plus cisplatin) chemotherapy (experimental arm) than for those patients who received the chemotherapy alone (control arm).

In the experimental arm, 39 % of the patients are still alive today, compared to 23 % of the patients in the control arm. Furthermore, a quality of life analysis performed during the clinical study with the tool FACT-L (a survey based on patient filled questionnaires), showed no significant difference between the study arms. This provides further evidence that TG4010 can be combined to the standard first-line chemotherapy of advanced stage NSCLC patients without further altering their quality of life. Recent data also confirms the very encouraging earlier results of Transgene's biomarker program, associated with the study of TG4010.

The study had already demonstrated in June 2008, at 13 months of median follow up, that patients who had a normal blood level of activated Natural Killer cells ("NK" cells, a group of cytotoxic lymphocytes) at baseline had a substantially longer median survival in the experimental arm than in the control arm. This sub-population represents 101 out of the 138 patients who could be evaluated for immunological analysis.

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NiCox : shares are increasing

French biotechnology company NicOx (NCOX.PA) and Pfizer (PFE.N) are going to make and supply oral capsules of naproxinod if the anti-inflammatory drug gets marketing approval. The French biotechnology company said on Tuesday the aim of was to ensure sufficient supplies of naproxinod capsules to underpin its successful commercial launch. NicOx expects to submit naproxinod with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by mid-2009 and is preparing for the launch of the drug, which seeks to treat osteoarthritis in the knee and hip while keeping blood pressure under control. NicOx used Capsugel's two-piece capsules during clinical trials with naproxinod. The capsules will be made at one of Capsugel's plants in France. NicOx shares rose as much as 7.7 percent and were up 4.7 percent at 8.45 euros by 08.24 GMT on September 23. Earlier in September, the company announced successful top-line results from the second phase 3 study for naproxinod in 1020 patients with osteoarthritis of the knee. Both doses of naproxinod (750 mg and 375 g bid) met the three co-primary efficacy endpoints at week-13.

Best practice

A series of intense workshops and seminars, ninety minutes each, of in-depth tutelage and discussion of subjects :

- Finance
- Regulatory Affairs
- Clustering and Innovation
- Intellectual Property
- Technology Transfer
- SMEs in FP7
- Stem Cells
- Neglected Diseases

Expect top-of-the-range experts to show you how to improve your bottom line. Fill your notebook with tips and hints, contacts and advice.

Co-organized with organizations such as the New York Stock Exchange/Euronext, the European Commission, The European Patent Office, the Council for European BioRegions (CEBR), and ERA Consulting.

Private partner meetings

EuroBio 2008 is a great get-together meeting but sometimes you need or want privacy.

The Private Partner meetings are designed to give you a room to allow groups of 10-30 people to get together for two hours or more of uninterrupted discussion.

Free to EuroBio Partners - groups such as associations or other groups bringing multiple delegates. At a time that suits you throughout the conference, but on a first-come basis. But book now to avoid clashes with events you are interested in.

Hold your consortium planning meeting, or assemble your scientific or business board at EuroBio in private. Closed partner meeting can also be used for presentations, discussions, open house... displays.

A fee applies for non-partners or longer meetings. Contact Abbie Charlet Gemo : acharlet@eurobio2008.com

Stallergenes S.A. officially inaugurates its new pharmaceutical production unit, located in the Paris area. Designed to comply with the most stringent EMEA (European Medicines Agency) and FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) standards, this unit will produce desensitisation treatments for all markets, primarily in Europe and North America.

Genzyme's new Science Center (Framingham, Massachusetts) will serve as a central site for early stage research, where scientists are utilizing the most advanced technologies available to discover novel new treatments for devastating diseases such as Parkinson's, cancer, and heart disease. At capacity, approximately 350 employees will occupy the building, the cost of which is \$125 million.

MorphoSys AG has exercised its first option to participate in the development of a therapeutic antibody program within its collaboration with Novartis. In a first, pre-development step, Novartis will fund the companies' joint efforts until the program reaches formal pre-clinical development. MorphoSys will recognize its share of the funding as additional revenues. Financial terms include committed payments in excess of US\$600 million over the 10-year lifetime of the agreement.

Dutch biopharma company Crucell N.V. announced that supranational organizations awarded Crucell new contracts of \$140 million for supplies of Quinvaxem and Hepavax-Gene for the period 2008 - 2009, bringing the total for the period 2007 - 2009 to \$0.5 billion. These contracts are in addition to the December 2006 announcement for the award of over \$230 million for Crucell's above mentioned vaccines, and the new contracts communicated on May 2008 of \$130 million for supplies of Quinvaxem in 2008 and 2009.

Health

A Functional Answer to Bacteriological Threats

Multi-resistant bacteria are increasingly frequent and widely disseminated in a multitude of environments. The health threat is very serious. Progress in molecular biology is such that it has become relatively easy to engineer genetically modified pathogens for which there cannot be any immediate counter-measures. The bio-preparedness challenge is very real. How to rapidly (less than 30 min) and efficiently detect the presence of any given LIVE bacterial pathogen? How to efficiently monitor an environment to rapidly (less than 30 min) detect the presence of any LIVE emerging (unknown) bacterial strain? How to rapidly and efficiently destroy any unknown bacterial pathogen or emerging strain without using antibiotics (too many resistant strains, and very rapid resistance acquisition) or vaccines (much too slow to act, and small strain variations often lead to inefficacy)? At BM Systems, there are answers.

Once isolated, a phage targeting a given host provides a permanent mean of control for that host. The stark reality (from model & data) is clear now. Individuals in the targeted bacterial host population will rapidly and independently mutate to evade attack (response driven by the increasing levels of bacterial debris and intracellular metabolites in the immediate environment). But if only ONE individual produces the « right » protective mutation, it will, within 24h, generate a new population resistant to that phage (the bacterial threat will seem eradicated only to reappear later, but this time, under a form resistant to the phage). Should resistance appear in a bacterial population, one only needs to return to a « natural source » of phages to have good chances of finding a new infective phage.

However, for a given host, the more frequent these returns to the « natural source », the greater the chances to fail finding a new appropriate infective phage. The reasons are : continuous co-evolution versus unidirectional predatory pressure. The stark reality (from model & data). Initially, this may well be the case. Negative selection of hypotheses & model building (at BM-Systems).

NEW WAY TO CONTROL PROTEIN ACTIVITY COULD LEAD TO CANCER THERAPIES

Investigators at the Stanford University School of Medicine have found a way to quickly and reversibly fine-tune the activity of individual proteins in cells and living mammals, providing a powerful new laboratory tool for identifying — more precisely than ever before

— the functions of different proteins. The procedure, described in a Nature Medicine paper published online Sept. 28, appears to be broadly applicable to efforts to understand the biological roles of all kinds of proteins, including those that are secreted by cells. HG

BIOTECH.INFO

Une publication de BiotechInfo Diffusion Sarl
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Prix de l'abonnement France 2008 : - 1 an (44 numéros) : 620€ TTC,
- 6 mois (22 numéros) : 350 € TTC (TVA 2,10 %). Etranger : nous consulter

BiotechInfo Diffusion Sarl. Gérante : Héléne Guyot Massari

Dépôt légal 1^{er} trimestre 2008 - Editeur : BiotechInfo Diffusion Sarl (principale actionnaire : Héléne Guyot Massari).
Siège social : Parc BIOCITECH 102 avenue Gaston Roussel 93230 Romainville. Sarl au capital de 20 000 euros. 484 115 191 RCS Paris.

Directrice de la publication : Héléne Guyot Massari. Imprimé par Stedi Media, 1, Bd Ney 75018 Paris. Commission Paritaire des Publications et Agences de Presse : 0611 I 78859.

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